

consider them worthy of notice ; too much attention cannot be paid to birds on migration in any part of the world.

On Sunday May 13th we dropped anchor at Cowes, and the most interesting voyage which I have ever made was over.

The distance covered was 19,851 miles, and we had been almost 187 days absent from England.

During the voyage I preserved just over 500 bird-skins as well as mammals and other specimens.

My very best thanks are due to Lord Crawford for his great kindness in taking me with him for the third time. The great interest, to a naturalist, in visiting these little-known islands can be better imagined than described.

My best thanks are also due to the Hon. Walter Lindsay and Dr. Deane for much valuable help in collecting during the voyage.

I have worked out my entire collection of birds at the British Museum, and for much kind help I am indebted to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe and Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, and to their excellent assistants Messrs. Chubb and Wells.

XLI.—*Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.*

[Continued from p. 602.]

104. *Azzolini on Italian Wagtails.*

[*Budytes italiani* (Strisciaiole e Cutti) (Boarine). By Dr. Enrico Azzolini. Rovereto, 1906. Pp. i-vi, 1-55; 7 figs.]

This, the forty-second publication of the Museum of Rovereto, contains an account of the Italian forms of the genus *Budytes*, as understood by the author, who proposes a new species, *B. plumbeiceps*, near *B. borealis*, which is fully discussed as regards coloration and habits. Spring and autumn plumages are described for all the forms.

105. '*Avicultural Magazine.*'

[*Avicultural Magazine*. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. iv. Nos. 6-9. April-July, 1906.]

It would be invidious to select any one of the articles in

these numbers as more important than another, since they appeal differently to different classes of readers. Some deal with the breeding of birds in captivity, some with foreign travel, others with individual genera or species.

Mr. St. Quintin continues his avicultural successes, of which the chief are the nesting in his aviaries of the Brush-Turkey and the Pine-Grosbeak; Mrs. Johnstone has succeeded for the first time with *Sarcops calvus* in confinement (pl.); Mr. Fasey writes on the breeding of Bourke's Parrakeet, Mr. Wormald on that of the Tufted Duck; Mr. Seth-Smith on the Green-winged Pigeons (*Chalcophaps*); Mr. Meade-Waldo on Sand-Grouse (col. pl.); Dr. Butler on *Calopelia puella* (col. pl.); Mr. Phillipps on *Malurus cyaneus* and *Merops apiaster*; Mr. Bonhote on *Lophoictinia isura* (pl.); Mr. Finn on eclipse plumage; Mrs. Gregory on garden pets (pl.); Mr. Percival on bird's-nesting by the Nile and the Atbara; Mr. Ingram on the Guacharo (pl.); and last, but not least, Mr. Nicoll tells us of the successful importation of the young of the Sacred Ibis to London (pl.) and of its life on Dassen Island. The controversy on Aviaries *v.* Cages still continues.

106. Collett on Birds new to Norway.

[Om en Del for Norges Fauna nye Fugle. By R. Collett. Christiania Vidensk.-Selsk. Forh. 1905, no. 10.]

The author continues the records of birds new to his country up to the year 1905. He is able to add eight species to former lists—namely, *Turdus sibiricus*, *Hirundo daurica*, and *Charadrius dominicus (fulvus)* all of the East Siberian Fauna; *Melanocorypha calaudra*, *Merops apiaster*, *Erythropus vespertinus*, *Aluco flammeus*, and *Nycticorax griseus* of the South or Middle European Fauna. Four new hybrids will also be found mentioned in the following paper.

107. Collett on Norwegian Hybrids.

[Hybrids among Norwegian Birds and their Diagnoses. By R. Collett. *T. c.* no. 11.]

Prof. Collett's papers are always worthy of our best

attention, and in this case he gives us details of hybrids which involve the Redwing, the Fieldfare, the Blackbird, and the Tetraonidæ in general. Many of these hybrids are extremely rare.

108. *Dresser's 'Eggs of the Birds of Europe.'*

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area. By H. E. Dresser, F.Z.S. Pts. 3, 4. London: 1906. Price 21s. net.]

These two parts of Mr. Dresser's work need no extended notice, as an account of the whole scheme will be found above (pp. 192, 367). The plates maintain a high standard of excellence, though the three-colour process is, in its present condition, perhaps somewhat better adapted to the larger than to the smaller eggs. The families treated are the Falconidæ (part.), Pandionidæ, and Turdidæ (part.), and we still think that in certain cases a greater range of variation in the specimens figured might be obtained by selection from larger series, as, for instance, in the case of *Falco islandus*. On the other hand, we do not quite see the reason for giving figures of twelve eggs of *F. eleonora*. The plates, however, shew the examples very clearly, and appear to improve with every part of the work.

109. '*The Emu.*'

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. v. pts. 3, 4 (Jan.-April, 1906). 6 pls. Melbourne, Australia, 1905-6.]

Besides the usual notes and shorter papers, part 3 contains an account of the fifth (Adelaide) Session of the A. O. U., under the presidency of Capt. F. W. Hutton, and the Annual Report, which includes the records of birds striking the lanterns at lighthouses (1904-1905), though these seem somewhat scanty. The President's address was "On European and other Birds liberated in Victoria." An expedition was made to the "Reed-beds" by way of Holmfirth and Weetunga, but the main camping-out, of ten days, was to Kangaroo Island, and of this a most interesting account is

given, supplemented by a report on the birds observed, by Mr. A. G. Campbell, who proposes to separate no less than four—or even eight—forms subspecifically and one (*Acanthiza halmaturina*) specifically.

Mr. A. Mattingley writes on the young Cuckoo and Bird-Migration; and an account is given (p. 177) of additional protection afforded by New South Wales to its native birds.

In part 4 we find an article on a "Visit to an Ibis Rookery" by Dr. E. A. D'Ombraïn, "Oological Notes and further description of a new Fruit-Pigeon" [*Ptilopus minutus*] by Mr. A. G. Campbell, "Domestic Wild-Cats v. Native Birds" by the same author, and minor contributions by Dr. Cleland, Mr. Mattingley, and Mr. A. G. Campbell. The Editors note the occurrence of a Wagtail in Queensland, for which Mr. A. J. North proposes the name *Motacilla barnardi*.

110. *Finsch on the Ornīs of Java.*

[Zur Erforschungsgeschichte der Ornīs Javas. Von Dr. O. Finsch. J. f. O., April 1906.]

No one knows the birds of Java and their history better than Dr. Finsch, formerly of the Leyden Museum, now of Brunswick, and we are glad to hear what he has to say on the subject. In this essay he describes all the ornithological work done in Java from the days of Baron von Wurmb, in 1779, to the present time, in which Herr Bartels, the discoverer of the new Owl, *Syrnium bartelsi*, figured in our last number, is the chief worker. The parts played by Horsfield, Leschenault, Diard, Duvaucel, Raffles, Reinwardt, Kuhl, Salomon Müller, Van Hasselt, Schlegel, Bernstein, Wallace, Warburg, Vorderman, and other well-known naturalists are carefully set forth, and full references to their numerous publications on the subject are given in footnotes. Vorderman was the author of the last catalogue of Javan birds, wherein 410 species were enumerated. Dr. Finsch tells us that this number has since been increased to 430, of which 77 are restricted to the island. Four of these endemic forms have been deemed worthy of generic rank—

namely, *Rhinococcyx* Sharpe, *Stasiasticus* Hartert, *Laniellus* Sw., and *Psaltria* Temm. But Dr. Finsch states that there remains more work to be done in the eastern part of Java, and in the further exploration of the high volcanoes, where new species may still lie hidden.

111. *Gregory's 'Dead Heart of Australia.'*

[The Dead Heart of Australia, a Journey around Lake Eyre in the Summer of 1901-2; with some Account of the Lake Eyre Basin and the flowing Wells of Central Australia. By J. W. Gregory, F.R.S., D.Sc. London: John Murray, 1906. Price 16s. net.]

This is not a bird-book, but it is an instructive and well-written narrative of an adventurous journey through a country of which the birds are little known, and we should advise all naturalists to read it. Prof. Gregory, accompanied by six of his pupils from the Geological School of the University of Melbourne, went by the northern railway from Adelaide to Hergott (440 miles) and travelled with camels round the great central depression called "Lake Eyre," in a temperature occasionally reaching 120° Fahr. One of the company, Mr. C. M. Lyons, collected and observed the birds of the district, and has published in 'The Emu' (vol. i. pp. 133-138) a series of good field-notes on them. Specimens of 33 species were obtained and 22 others were identified. The rare Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*) was ascertained to breed there, and young about three weeks old were obtained. In many places birds were abundant and the water-holes were "thronged with Ducks," besides Swans, Shags, Sea-Gulls, Pelicans, Pigeons, and Cockatoos, so that even the Lake Eyre district, dry and hot as it is, is by no means birdless.

112. *Hartert on the Birds of Babber.*

[On the Birds of the Island of Babber. By Dr. Ernst Hartert. Nov. Zool. xiii. pp. 288-302.]

A collection made for Mr. Heinrich Kühn by some native taxidermists in the island of Babber—one of the eastern

islets of the south-west group in the great Eastern Archipelago—contains examples of 76 species, which are now catalogued, with explanatory notes. Four new subspecies are denominated *Ninox boobook cinnamomina*, *Muscicapula hyperythra audacis*, *Orthnocichla subulata advena*, and *Pachycephala melanura tepa*.

Dr. Hartert points out that the Ornithology of Babber “differs considerably from that of the more western islands,” being in many respects the same as, or closely allied to, that of the Tenimber group.

113. Hartert on the Birds of Luang.

[On the Birds of Luang. By Dr. Ernst Hartert. *T. c.* pp. 302–304.]

— On leaving Babber Mr. Kühn’s taxidermists visited the islet of Luang, near Sermatta, of the same group, and obtained examples of 41 species of birds, of which the names are now recorded, accompanied by a few remarks. One example of the Australian *Grallina picata* is among them, shewing that this species occasionally strays far northwards.

114. Hartert’s ‘Miscellanea Ornithologica.’

[Miscellanea Ornithologica. Critical, Nomenclatorial, and other Notes, mostly on Palearctic Birds and their Allies. By Ernst Hartert, Ph.D. Part III. *T. c.* pp. 386–405.]

Dr. Hartert continues his valuable notes (see ‘Ibis,’ 1905, p. 123), and discourses on *Anthoscopus*, *Panurus*, *Colæus*, the Palearctic Muscicapidae, the African *Pycnonoti*, and the Palearctic forms of *Lanius*, which last form one of the most thorny problems in Ornithology. He criticizes Mr. Ogilvie-Grant’s treatment of the *Lanii* (Nov. Zool. ix. p. 449, 1902) pretty severely, and utterly refuses to agree with many of his conclusions.

Dr. Hartert maintains that *Lanius excubitor* and the allied form usually called *Lanius major* are specifically inseparable. “Both varieties occur in the same area, and both have been found in the same nest. It is thus perfectly clear that only one form of Grey Shrike inhabits Northern Europe,

namely *Lanius excubitor*." This is an important point to British ornithologists, but those interested in the Shrike-question should study the whole article.

Dr. Hartert proposes to alter the name *Lanius caudatus* of Cabanis (1869) to *Lanius cabanisi*, because Brehm in 1855 used the same "silly" name for *L. nubicus*. We do not see the necessity of this change, as the "silly name" has never been adopted and is now long ago forgotten.

115. Hellmayr on Spix's Types.

[Revision der Spix'schen Typen brasilianischer Vögel. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Abh. k. Bayer. Ak. d. Wiss. ii. Kl. xxii. Bd. iii. pp. 563-726.]

This is a good piece of work, which will be most acceptable to all students of Neotropical Ornithology. Mr. Hellmayr has spent nearly two years in examining and comparing the types of Spix's Brazilian birds in the Munich Museum, and now gives us his results with full explanations. We do not say that we accede to all his proposed alterations in nomenclature. Far from it—we think that no change in an established name should be made when there is the least doubt on the point, and that obsolete terms should not be revived under any circumstances to the prejudice of well-known names.

After an introduction, which contains a short but sufficient account of Spix and his travels, our author takes the plates and descriptions of the two volumes of the 'Avium Species Novæ' one after the other, and gives us a disquisition on them, shorter or longer as the case requires, specifying exactly the specimens now at Munich and their localities. An alphabetical Index at the end renders it easy to find what, in our author's opinion, the modern version of each of Spix's names should be.

The following names appear to be new:—*Lamprops tanagerinus violaceus* (p. 616), *Formicivora ochropyga* (p. 663), *Ortalis columbiana* (p. 698), and *O. spixi* (p. 695). *Jabiru* (!) (p. 711) is a new generic name for *Mycteria americana*, but we prefer the old one and shall stick to it!

We venture also to suggest that when such newly-coined generic names as *Crocomorphus* (p. 604) and *Myospiza* (p. 673) are introduced some clue should be given as to their place of origin.

Mr. Hellmayr shews clearly that the *Caprimulgus hirundinaceus* of Spix is a true *Caprimulgus* allied to *C. parvulus*, and not a *Chordeiles* as supposed by Hartert (Cat. B. M. xvi. p. 614).

116. *Hellmayr on little-known Neotropical Birds.*

[Critical Notes on the Types of little-known Species of Neotropical Birds. Part I. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xiii. pp. 305-352.]

This is also a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Neotropical Ornis. It is the result of a careful examination of the typical specimens of South-American birds in the British Museum, which the author has made during the past four years, while he has been greatly assisted by the loan of typical specimens from other museums. We believe Mr. Hellmayr to be a very accurate worker, and that his identifications may, as a rule, be relied upon without hesitation, although in some cases he states them, perhaps, in a little too positive manner. Moreover, when the difficult character of the groups of which he mostly treats is considered, and the advantages as to materials which he has enjoyed, Mr. Hellmayr is, in our opinion, a little too severe upon previous authors. It has been well said that "he who does not make mistakes does not make anything." At the same time it is good that all mistakes should be faithfully corrected.

The results arrived at in this paper, though of much importance, are mostly of a strictly technical character; and we need not do more than call general attention to them. The following names appear to be now published for the first time:—*Myrmelastes exsul maculifer* (Panama), *Knipolegus sclateri* (Rio Madeira), and *Chloropipo holochlora litæ* (N.W. Ecuador).

117. *Hellmayr on Birds from Pará.*

[Notes on a Second Collection of Birds from the District of Pará, Brazil. By C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. xiii. pp. 353-385.]

This is another important contribution to our knowledge of the Ornithology of South America from the same industrious pen. It gives an account of a collection of 420 specimens sent to the Tring Museum by Mr. W. Hoffmans from Prata, a locality situated east of the city of Pará. The species represented in it are 120 in number, of which two—*Microcerculus marginatus occidentalis* and *Tachyphonus surinamus insignis*—are now described for the first time, while two others have been previously characterized elsewhere.

Amongst the species now added to the list of the birds of the district of Pará is *Avocettula recurvirostris*, previously believed to be confined to Guiana. There are also in the collection good series of the newly-described *Conopophaga roberti* and *Hypocnemis vidua*, hitherto known only from single specimens, besides examples of two "exceedingly rare" Humming-birds, *Agyrtria nitidifrons* and *Lophornis gouldi*.

118. *Holland on Birds from East Africa.*

[A List of the Birds collected near Mombasa, East Africa, by William Doherty. By W. J. Holland, LL.D. Ann. Carneg. Mus. iii. p. 452 (1905).]

This list contains the names of 105 species of birds obtained by the late William Doherty in September and October, 1900, near Mombasa, British East Africa. The doubtful specimens have been determined by Dr. Reichenow, and his arrangement is followed.

119. *Johnston's 'Liberia.'*

[Liberia. By Sir Harry Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.Sc. With an Appendix on the Flora of Liberia, by Dr. Otto Stapf. Two vols. 8vo. London: Hutchinson and Co., 1906. Price 42s. net.]

Sir Harry Johnston, having monographed two of our East-African Protectorates, has now turned his attention to the West Coast of Africa, and in two bulky and profusely

illustrated volumes gives us an account of all that is known about Liberia—a “civilized Negro State in the West African forest,” in which he has lately become interested and to which he has paid several visits.

The first volume is devoted to the ancient and modern history of the Republic, together with essays on its commerce, geography, geology, and climate, the only thing which we can see in it relating to birds being a pretty coloured picture of the Red-headed Guinea-fowl (*Agelastes meleagrides*), p. 370. Sir Harry's second volume, however, is nearly entirely devoted to Natural History and Anthropology, and contains a special chapter on “Birds,” to which we must call attention. After reviewing the principal groups of the Liberian Avifauna, in which many characteristic figures from the author-and-artist's own sketches are introduced (*Phyllopezus africanus*, *Leptero dius gularis*, *Ceratogymna elata*, &c.), besides coloured plates of *Ceryle maxima*, *Ortholophus leucolophus*, *Ceratogymna atrata*, and *Eurystomus afer*, the author adds, in an Appendix, a complete list of the birds observed or collected in Liberia and noticed by various authorities on the subject, amongst whom Dr. Büttikofer is the most important. This list, which has been prepared for Sir Harry by Mr. Charles Chubb, of the Zoological Department, British Museum, is of considerable length, embracing the names of some 260 species, and will be of much use to ornithologists. At the same time we may say that it would have been of still greater use if the authority for the occurrence of the species in Liberia had been given after each name. This has only been done in some cases, mainly where the specimens were collected by Mr. Reynolds, and have been named in Mr. Chubb's previous list published in the P. Z. S. for 1905 (i. p. 205).

Sir Harry tells us (p. 777) that the typical *Psittacus erithacus* with a red tail does not occur in Liberia, its place being taken by *P. timneh* with a grey tail*. An example of the Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) was obtained in

* Cf. Johnston in P. Z. S. 1905, i. p. 204.

Liberia by Mr. J. Maitland Pye-Smith on the 27th of March, 1905. This appears to be the first record of the occurrence of this far-wandering species so far south in Africa*, though it is a recognised winter-visitor to Chili, India, and New Zealand.

120. *Jourdain on the Eggs of European Birds.*

[The Eggs of European Birds. By the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain. London: R. H. Porter. Part I. 8vo. Pp. i-iv, 1-80; pls. i.-xiv. Price 10s. 6d. net.]

The first part of Mr. Jourdain's book makes a further addition to the works on Oology now in progress. The letterpress is excellent, and gives a fully detailed account of the nest and eggs of each form, with references to plates already published—and besides, what is even more important nowadays, a sketch of the breeding-range of the different races that have been hitherto described. We may prefer the 12th edition of Linnæus's 'Systema Naturæ' to the 10th, and may not be inclined to follow the author closely as regards nomenclature, but there can be only one opinion as to the necessity of an exact knowledge of the various geographical races; and should their nests and eggs prove to differ, this should assuredly be made known. Moreover, any such differences as exist should be reckoned at their full worth in deciding the difficult question of the validity of the various races.

In his nomenclature the author would have done well to be more consistent. In some cases he heads the account relating to a bird with a binomial appellation, and then subdivides the species into geographical races by the use of trinomials. This, we hold, is the correct method, and is that commonly used in allied branches of science. To apply trinomials to all these races without a general binomial heading is, in our opinion, equivalent to destroying the species entirely, or, in other words, to dividing the genus directly

* It has occurred occasionally near Tangier, in N.E. Africa (see Irby, Orn. Straits of Gibraltar, 2nd ed. p. 275).

into races. In other cases Mr. Jourdain heads his account with a trinomial race-title, and this forces him to commit such an absurdity as to call the common Serin Finch *Serinus canarius serinus*, while he places the Greenland Redpoll under the general title of Coues's Redpoll. Tautology is quite a minor question.

Among the many useful points in the work we may notice the lists of local British and foreign names of the birds, the references to other forms the range of which abuts upon the European area, the measurements of the eggs, and the determination of the approximate weight of the shells.

It is of course impossible to avoid occasional slips, but we must demur to the statements that *Corvus cornix* tends to replace *C. corone* in Northern Scotland, that the Cough probably *often* lays its eggs at intervals, that the Goldfinch uses a *little* moss in its nest, while we deny that the Starling has become established as a breeding species in Northumberland only within the last forty years. But the comparative insignificance and infrequency of these inaccuracies only strengthens our opinion of the general accuracy of Mr. Jourdain's work.

The plates by no means reach the standard of the text, especially as regards coloration, but we hope to be able to criticize them more favourably in future parts of the book.

121. *Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Vol. ii. No. 1. Pretoria, June 1906.]

We have already spoken of the founding of this new ornithological journal and of the successful issue of the first two numbers*. Number 1 of vol. ii., which is now before us, contains an account of the second annual meeting of the Union, held at Johannesburg on August 30th, 1905, and several well-written papers on South African Ornithology. Mr. Bueknill describes some new South African eggs, and illustrates them in a clear and well-coloured plate.

* See 'The Ibis,' 1905, p. 635, and 1906, p. 372.

Mr. Roberts contributes field-notes from Wolmaransstad, Transvaal. Mr. W. L. Slater prints the text of his essay on bird-migration in South Africa, which was read before Section D of the British Association at Johannesburg in August last. Other communications are by Mr. E. Symons, Capt. Horsbrugh, Mr. Millar, Mr. Haagner, and Mr. Lionel Taylor. Mr. Haagner's field-notes on the Bronze Cuckoos of South Africa are of special interest, as so little is yet known about the breeding-habits of foreign Cuckoos. A series of short notes on subjects relating to South African Ornithology concludes the number.

We are sorry to say that an error was made in our last notice of this journal (above, p. 372). The principal Editor of the South African Journal is Mr. John A. Bucknill (who is assisted by Mr. W. L. Slater and Dr. J. W. B. Gunning), and *not* Mr. A. Haagner, who is, however, a very active worker and contributor, and is Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the S.A. Ornithologists' Union.

122. Kleinschmidt's 'Berajah' and 'Falco.'

[Berajah, Zoographia infinita. Lieferung I. *Saxicola borealis*. Tafeln i.-ix. (i.-vi. coloured), Seiten 1-22. (W. Schlüter, Halle-a.-S., 1905.)

Falco, unregelmässig im Anschluss an das Werk 'Berajah, Zoographia infinita,' erscheinende Zeitschrift, Jahrgang 1905. Nos. 1-3 (106 pages, 8vo). Mit einer Farbentafel (I. *Falco barbarus germanicus* Erl.). (W. Schlüter, Halle-a.-S.)]

Both these publications are devoted to the promotion of a new doctrine, which involves no less than a total revolution of all that has been taught in zoology since the time of Linnæus. According to the views of the learned author (who is a pastor at Volkmaritz, near Dederstedt, bez. Halle-a.-S., Prussia) there are no such things as species or subspecies, but the "real natural species" is to be found in the "Formenkreis" (circle of forms) or "Lebensring" (circle of life). This consists of a group of species, more or less allied, or in some cases not allied at all, as is shown in the first part of 'Berajah,' which treats of the "Formenkreis" of *Saxicola borealis*. Scarcely any ornithologist will agree with the author in

uniting with *S. leucorrhœa* Gmel. and *S. œnanthe* L. only *S. phillipsi* Shelley (of Somaliland) and *S. seebohmi* Dixon (of Algeria). Why not join to them other allied forms or species? Besides these four, separated under "A. Formæ capitales," there is a division "B. Formæ subtiles," which enumerates (a) five named and (b) six unnamed forms, based partially on single specimens, so that the author himself is doubtful as to the value of some of these "subtile" forms. According to his present knowledge, the "Formenkreis" of *Saxicola borealis* extends over fifteen forms. A new head-name becomes necessary for every "Formenkreis"—for example, *Erithacus poeta* for the Nightingales, *Erithacus dandalus* for the Robin, and *Turdus bragi* for the Song-Thrush!

But we have said enough. These few remarks will suffice to give an idea of the principles of the "Formenkreis," the scientific value and usefulness of which we leave our readers to judge for themselves.—O. F.

123. Krause's 'Palearctic Oology.'

[Georg Krause. Oologia universalis palæarctica. Lief. 1. 4to. Stuttgart, 1906. Price 1s. 3d. net each part.]

Of this work, to be completed in some 150 parts in about two years, perhaps the best idea can be given by a quotation from the prospectus:—"With this first part begins a work which by his quite unique abundance of pictures true to nature promises to be a fundamental and monumental ideal work on palæarctic oology."

The plates are somewhat uneven, those of the eggs of the Golden Eagle and Song-Thrush being much better than those of the Raven and Quail; but, on the whole, we incline to a sanguine view of them, and the number of varieties figured will certainly be a most useful feature in the book. The letterpress, which is on a card equal in size to each plate, merely states the Latin, German, and English names, the breeding-range, the localities affected, and brief details of the nest and eggs. But we cannot understand why a better translation of the German text was not secured, if the English was to be given at all. What, for instance,

are we to understand by "a nearly equatorial doppel-height" or a "moderately blank" egg-shell?

124. *Lampe on the Birds in the Museum of Wiesbaden.*

[Katalog der Vögel-Sammlung des Naturhistorisches Museum zu Wiesbaden. I. Teil. Picariæ und Psittaci. II. Teil. Columbæ und Pterocletes. Von Kustos Ed. Lampe. Jahrb. Nassau. Ver. f. Naturk. 1904-5.]

These are the first two parts of a catalogue of the specimens of birds exhibited in the Natural History Museum of Wiesbaden, prepared by Herr Lampe, the Custos. The collection is not large, containing examples of only 341 species of Picariæ, 104 of Psittaci, 85 of Columbæ, and 8 of Pterocletes, but there are some valuable specimens in it received from Bruijn, of Ternate, and a single example of the large extinct Fruit-Pigeon of Norfolk Island (*Hemiphaga spadicea*), the history of which is unfortunately unknown.

125. *Menegaux and Hellmayr on the Tracheophonæ.*

[Études des espèces critique et des types du groupe des Passereaux Trachéophones de l'Amérique Tropicale appartenant aux collections du Museum. Par MM. Menegaux et C. E. Hellmayr. Pt. I. Bull. d. Mus. d'H. N. 1905, p. 372. Pt. II. Mém. S. d. H. N. d'Autun, xix, pp. 43-126 (1906). Pt. III. Bull. Soc. Phil. 1906, pp. 24-58.]

This is a useful piece of work, and we ought to be thankful to the authors for having undertaken it. The Tracheophonine Passeres of the Neotropical Ornis contain some of the most difficult groups in the whole Class of Birds to treat satisfactorily. The famous Museum of Paris is the fortunate possessor of a large series of specimens of these forms, among which are many types of species described by d'Orbigny, Lafresnaye, Castelnau, Deville, Saint-Hilaire, and other well-known authorities. The authors of these three memoirs have undertaken the hard task of searching for these types (which were not in all cases properly labelled) and other critical specimens, and of giving us all the information they can upon them. Why they should have published the results of their studies in three different journals it is difficult to understand. We should have thought that the 'Bulletin'

of the Museum of Natural History would have been the proper place for the second and third parts of their memoir as well as for the first.

In the first part the families Conopophagidæ and "Hylactidæ" are discussed, "Hylactidæ" being a new name for the family called "Pteroptochidæ" in the 'Catalogue of Birds' of the British Museum, which the authors profess to follow. But *Hylactes*, they allege, is an older name than *Pteroptochus*, and it is the practice to form a family-name from the oldest genus. The names of the species of Conopophagidæ and Hylactidæ are taken in systematic order, nearly in accordance with the arrangement in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' and an exact list of the specimens at Paris is given, with localities, dates, and critical remarks.

The second part of this memoir relates to the Dendrocolumbaptidæ, of which 121 species are discussed in the same fashion. Two new forms are introduced—*Geositta paytae*, from N.W. Peru, and *Philydor columbianus riveti*, from Ecuador. We may remark that several species which we should consider valid are here reduced to the rank of subspecies.

The third part is devoted to the Formicariidæ, and contains notes on 57 species and subspecies, of which three are described as new—*Myrmelastes cryptoleucus* from Pebas (Amazonia), *Formicivora devillei* from N.E. Peru, and *Chamæza brevicauda venezuelana* from Venezuela.

We hope that the authors will continue their studies, and treat the Tyrannidæ and other obscure groups in a similar manner.

126. *Miller on Birds from Durango, Mexico.*

[List of Birds collected in North-western Durango, Mexico, by J. H. Batty, during 1903. By W. D. Miller. Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist. xxii. pp. 161-181.]

An account is given of a collection of birds made for the American Museum of Natural History by Mr. J. H. Batty in 1903, in the north-western part of the Mexican State of

Durango. The collection contained 820 specimens, which are referred to 132 species.

Mr. Miller observes that "in the case of several species the specimens from Durango are almost exactly intermediate between the representative subspecies of the South-western United States and those of Central Mexico, and cannot properly be referred to either." Five instances are given of the occurrence of this phenomenon, which is by no means unknown in the Eastern Hemisphere.

No new subspecies are described, but many useful critical notes are given, and a few field-notes by the collector.

127. *North on a new Bird-of-Paradise.*

[Description of a new Bird-of-Paradise. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist, Australian Museum, Sydney. *Vict. Nat.* xxii. p. 156 (1906).]

Paradisea granti, founded upon a single skin in the Australian Museum, Sydney, which is believed to have come from German New Guinea, is closely allied to *P. intermedia* De Vis and *P. augustæ-victoriæ* Cab., but has the flank-plumes reddish orange and the yellow collar on the lower throat much broader, as shown in an accompanying figure.

128. *Ogilvie-Grant on Malayan Birds.*

[Fasciculi Malayenses: Anthropological and Zoological Results of an Expedition to Perak and the Malay States, 1901-1902, undertaken by Nelson Annandale and Herbert C. Robinson under the Auspices of the University of Edinburgh and the University of Liverpool. Report on the Birds by W. R. Ogilvie-Grant. *Zoology*. Part III. July 1905. 4to. Pp. 65-124. Williams and Norgate.]

On their travels through Perak and the neighbouring Malayan States, Messrs. Annandale and Robinson did not neglect the birds, although they had many other subjects to attend to. The third Part of the 'Fasciculi Malayenses' (a publication which gives the results of the Expedition) contains a report upon the birds of the country traversed, drawn up by Mr. Ogilvie-Grant, who enumerates 225 species and gives the locality of every specimen, besides remarks on

the identification, where necessary. Short field-notes by Mr. Robinson are added. The species catalogued are mostly well-known forms of the Malay Peninsula, but a new Bulbul is described as *Pycnonotus robinsoni*, and several little-known species are further elucidated.

In his "introductory note," Mr. Robinson points out that the avifauna of the Patani States is on the whole more Burmese than Malayan, while the affinities of the high mountain-fauna are puzzling, both Bornean and Sumatran forms being represented, though the latter are predominant.

129. *Raspail on the Birds of Gouvieux, Northern France.*

[Une Station Ornithologique dans l'Oise. Nouvelles observations sur les oiseaux ayant niché dans le périmètre du Territoire de Gouvieux, suivies de la liste des oiseaux qui y sont régulièrement ou accidentellement de passage. Par Xavier Raspail. Mém. Soc. Zool. France, xviii. p. 32 (1905).]

The author has studied the birds of the territory of Gouvieux, in the Canton of Creil, bordered on one side by the River Oise, for the past twenty years, and now presents us with a summary of his results in an article of 170 pages. After describing the locality and the varied nature of the scenery, which comprises a mixture of cultivated land, woods, meadows, and marshes, he gives a list of the 103 species of birds which he has found nesting within the district, and his observations upon them. They are mostly those that would be found in one of the southern counties of England, but there are some differences. *Motacilla alba typica* is the common and abundant form at Gouvieux, but *M. a. yarrelli* is also found occasionally, and has been ascertained to breed there. The Oriole is a regular summer visitant, arriving early in May. The Crested Lark is common. The author maintains the specific difference of the larger Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter major*) and figures its eggs. The Black Redstart (*Ruticilla tithys*) has been found nesting every year since 1905, but was not previously known in the district.

130. *Reiss on Migration across the Andes of Ecuador.*

[Zum Vogelzuge auf die Hochgebirge von Ecuador. Nach W. Reiss mitgeteilt von O. Finsch. *Aquila*, xii. (1905).]

Dr. Finsch calls attention to the fact that Dr. Reiss, on his journey across the Andes from Riobamba in Ecuador to Macas, ascertained that large flocks of birds (Snipes, Ibises, Herons, and others) cross the pass of Atillo (10,000 feet) every year from east to west, and that multitudes of them perish on meeting a very severe contrary blast of wind near the summit of the pass, so much so that their bodies are collected by the natives in quantities for food. A return migration from west to east takes place a few months later. That birds should be driven by *furor migratorius* to cross a pass of this great altitude seems to be a new fact, and worthy of further enquiry.

131. *Report of the South African Museum for 1905.*

[Report of the South African Museum for the Year ending 31st December, 1905. Presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of H.E. the Governor, 1906.]

This Report contains an account of the work performed by the Director and his staff (of nine officers) during the year, and gives a list of the additions made to the collections in the various Departments during the same period. In the Department of Vertebrates four accessions to the collection of birds are specially noticed—an example of the rare Night-Heron (*Nycticorax leuconotus*) from Durban, a specimen of Allen's Reed-Hen (*Porphyrio alleni*) from Touws River, a further consignment of 138 South African birds' eggs presented by Major Sparrow, and a series of 210 birds from the Zambezi Valley in N.E. Rhodesia, presented by Dr. F. E. Stochr, of the Geodetic Survey. A specimen of a Sun-bird (*Nectarinia kilimensis*) from the district of Melssetter, Southern Rhodesia, was obtained by purchase. This species is new to the South-African list.

We notice with regret that Mr. W. L. Sclater has resigned his post as Director of the South African Museum,

and hope that the new Director will not fail to continue the series of volumes on the Fauna of South Africa which his predecessor has so well commenced.

132. *Riley on the Birds of the Bahamas.*

[Birds of the Bahama Islands. By Joseph H. Riley (Geographical Society of Baltimore). Baltimore, 1905.]

The author, who is one of the staff of the U.S. National Museum, was in charge of the division of "Land-zoology" in the expedition sent out under Dr. G. B. Shattuck to the Bahama Islands, in 1903, by the Geographical Society of Baltimore, and has accepted the task of discussing the birds of the Bahamas in the volume of "Results." His paper, as he tells us, is rather written as a review of our present knowledge of the Bahaman Ornis than with the hope of adding new material where so much has already been done.

Mr. Riley commences with an account of previous publications on the birds of the Bahamas from the days of Catesby (1731-1748) to the present time—Bryant, Cory, and Maynard are well-known authorities on the subject. Mr. Ridgway has published a list of Bahaman Birds in the 'Auk' (1891), besides treating them in his 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Our member Mr. Bonhote has contributed some excellent remarks on them to this Journal (1899 and 1902), and Mr. Chapman's experiences with the Flamingos and other species in the Bahamas are known to all of us. But Mr. Riley tells us that some of the islands are still imperfectly explored, and that our knowledge of the Bahaman Avifauna is "far from complete." Of the 204 species and subspecies that have as yet been recorded, only 100 are "summer residents," the rest being accidental visitors or migrants. Taking the 44 "endemic" species (*i. e.* those not found elsewhere) one after the other, Mr. Riley endeavours to trace their nearest relatives. Leaving out the more or less doubtful cases, he shews that fourteen forms are apparently derivatives from North America and seventeen from the Greater Antilles, so

that the Bahamas (which are oceanic islands "of comparatively recent origin") have been peopled with bird-life mainly from these two sources.

In conclusion, the author gives us a complete list of Bahaman birds and their exact localities, but does not specify exactly the species of which examples were secured during the expedition in which he took part.

133. *Stonham's 'Birds of the British Islands.'*

[The Birds of the British Islands. By Charles Stonham, C.M.Z.S., F.R.C.S., F.Z.S. With Illustrations by L. M. Medland. Vol. i. part i. London: Grant Richards, 1906. Price 7s. 6d. net.]

We are sorry not to be able to say much in praise of Mr. Stonham's "new work on an old subject," of which the first part is now before us, with an invitation to express our opinion on it. We cannot admire the illustrations, although we are told that "no trouble has been spared to ensure the greatest accuracy and beauty." Those of the Thrushes, which we should suppose would be easy subjects for an artist's pencil, are by no means pleasing to us.

Mr. Stonham wisely follows (very nearly) the nomenclature and arrangement of the List of the B. O. U., with which we are all familiar, and in the present number treats of thirteen well-known species, omitting those of rare or accidental occurrence. We quite approve of the plan of giving, as far as possible, the "correct derivation of the English and scientific names of the birds," but we cannot agree with the author's views on this subject in every case. For instance, "*rubus*," not "*rubeus*," is the Latin for a bramble.

134. *Townshend on the Birds of Massachusetts.*

[The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts. By C. W. Townshend, M.D. (Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, No. iii.) Cambridge, Mass., 1905. 1 vol., 4to. 352 pp.]

This is a well-written and clearly-printed essay on the birds of a district in the north-east corner of Massachusetts,

which will be acceptable to American Ornithologists. After a preface, in which the topography and ornithological history of Essex County are described, the birds are taken according to the order of the American Check-list, and remarks on each of them are given. The total number of species and subspecies considered is 354, of which 319 are now extant. The lighthouses on the Essex coast have received special attention, and it seems to be shown that the birds which strike them nowadays are much less numerous than was formerly the case. The most remarkable record is that of September 3rd, 1899, on which night an enormous flock of Phalaropes dashed against the lights on Cape Ann, "so that the dead and dying covered the ground, and one man is stated to have picked up 800 of them."

The Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus torquatus*), introduced in 1893, is now a "common permanent resident in Essex County."

XLII.—Obituary. Sir WALTER BULLER.

SIR WALTER LAWRY BULLER, K.C.M.G., well known to all ornithologists as the historian of the Birds of New Zealand, and our chief authority on that subject, died at Fleet, in Hampshire, on the 19th of July last.

Sir Walter was born in 1838, and was the son of the Rev. James Buller, of Canterbury, New Zealand, who was descended from an old Cornish family of that name. Taking the Law as his profession, he was Resident Magistrate and Native Commissioner from 1862 to 1872. During the Maori war of 1865 he served on Sir George Grey's staff as a volunteer, for which he received a medal and was mentioned in despatches. In 1874 Sir Walter was called to the English Bar, at the Inner Temple, and after that year was frequently resident in this country, being appointed a member of the New Zealand Commission for the Colonial Exhibition of 1886, and of the Executive Council for the